

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 DRC-01

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R 091000Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9960

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6179

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, TW

SUBJECT: ROC INTEREST IN REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES (RPV'S)

REF: TAIPEI 5163 (NOTAL)

1. IN SEPT 22 LETTER TO CHIEF MAAG, ROC CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF GENERAL LAI MING-TANG STATED ROC ARMED FORCES INTEREST IN REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES, INCLUDING RECONNAISSANCE AND TARGET DRONES, AND REQUESTED MAAG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING USG RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS IN ORDER PERMIT TELEDYNE RYAN ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH ROC MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. IN RESPONSE GEN. BARNES' REQUEST FOR FORMAL EMBASSY GUIDANCE, WE REPLIED: "EMBASSY DOES NOT FAVOR RELAXATION OF USG RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON INFORMATION REGARDING REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES WITH RESPECT TO ROC AND, IN ABSENCE OF GUIDANCE TO CONTRARY FROM WASHINGTON, REQUESTS THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY TEAM REFRAIN FROM ACTION WHICH IN ANY WAY WOULD ENCOURAGE ROC ARMED FORCES TO ACQUIRE, EITHER THROUGH PURCHASE OR MANUFACTURE, REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES WHICH HAVE SECRET

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OR CAN BE ALTERED TO HAVE A RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITY."

2. ON OCT 5, GEN. BARNES, IN REPLY TO GEN. LAI, NOTED FORTHCOMING VISIT OF NORTHROP REPRESENTATIVE WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS NORTHROP MANUFACTURED TARGET DRONES (WHICH, WE ARE TOLD, DO NOT HAVE AND CANNOT BE CONVERTED TO HAVE RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITY), AND OFFERED REQUEST TECHNICAL DATA/BRIEFINGS FROM OTHER TARGET DRONE MANUFACTURERS. REGARDING OTHER RPV'S, GEN. BARNES STATED: "I REGRET THAT PRESENT USG POLICY PROHIBITS RELEASE OF TECHNICAL DATA OR SALE OF RECONNAISSANCE-CAPABLE REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES. IF IN THE FUTURE RELAXATION OF USG RESTRICTIONS OCCUR, I WILL ASSIST YOU IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE". COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE BEING POUCHED DEPT ATTENTION EA/ROC COUNTRY DIRECTOR SULLIVAN.

3. ALTHOUGH ROC MILITARY HAVE SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RPV'S, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THIS IS FIRST TIME THEY HAVE FORTHRIGHTLY SAID THEY WANT RECONNAISSANCE DRONES. WE ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, OF ROC ATTEMPT ROUGHLY ONE YEAR AGO TO ENTER INTO LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH SCHWEIZER COMPANY OF ELMIRA, NEW YORK TO MANUFACTURE SAILPANES--PRESUMABLY TO BE USED AS TEST BEDS FOR POWERED RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES. DEAL WAS NEVER CONSUMMATED AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

4. WE ARE RATHER UNCERTAIN HOW TO INTERPRET WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE ROC'S COURTING OF A NEGATIVE RESPONSE. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, WE SHOULD NOW WATCH FOR ROC ATTEMPTS TO ACQUIRE RECONNAISSANCE DRONES FROM NON-US SOURCES.  
MCCONAUGHY

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NNN

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